

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 82

Introduced by Senator Blakeslee

(Principal coauthors: Senators Correa, Dutton, and Harman)

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Cook and *Fletcher, Gorell, Grove, and Knight*)

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Berryhill, De León, Emmerson, Evans, Fuller, Huff, La Malfa, Pavley, Runner, Strickland, Walters, and Wyland)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, *Alejo, Ammiano, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Chesbro, Conway, Donnelly, Beth Gaines, Garrick, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Knight, and Hill, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Logue, Ma, Mansoor, Miller, Monning, Nestande, Nielsen, Portantino, Silva, Solorio, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, and Williams*)

April 10, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 82—Relative to California veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 82, as amended, Blakeslee. California veterans of the Iraq War: memorial.

This measure would commemorate and honor the service and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who supported the operations in Iraq, and their families, as the official combat mission in Iraq draws to a close. This measure would encourage mayors and communities across the State of California to honor veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan on November 11, 2012, in Veterans Day parades, ceremonies, and other displays of our state's gratitude for their

service and sacrifice. This measure would also request that the Department of General Services work with appropriate third parties to design and create a memorial for the California veterans who fought and served in Iraq and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, erect that memorial, in accordance with California law, in the State Capitol Park. This measure would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation authorizing the creation of a larger memorial commemorating and thanking those who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 1,500,000 members of the United States
2 Armed Forces *served in Iraq*, thousands of whom are residents of
3 the State of California, ~~served in Iraq~~, many serving on multiple
4 deployments; and

5 WHEREAS, The members of the United States Armed Forces
6 who served in support of operations in Iraq performed brilliantly
7 in a highly complex and challenging environment, and did
8 everything that was asked of them, and more, to meet the
9 requirements of the mission; and

10 WHEREAS, Thousands of members of the United States
11 National Guard and Reserves left their civilian jobs and livelihoods
12 to support operations in Iraq, making enormous contributions, and
13 serving with distinction; and

14 WHEREAS, Nearly 4,500 members of the United States Armed
15 Forces, 668 of whom were residents of the State of California,
16 made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives in support of
17 operations in Iraq; and

18 WHEREAS, More than 30,000 members of the United States
19 Armed Forces, 5,713 of whom are residents of the State of
20 California, were wounded serving in support of operations in Iraq;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Families of the members of the United States
23 Armed Forces serving in Iraq endured repeated deployments and
24 spent many holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries apart; and

25 WHEREAS, After nearly nine years of combat, we welcome
26 home our veterans and continue to support members of the United
27 States Armed Forces deployed in Afghanistan and elsewhere in
28 the world; and

1 WHEREAS, Iraq's destiny and future development now lie with
2 its people; and

3 WHEREAS, The people of the United States recognize the
4 service and sacrifices made by those members of the United States
5 Armed Forces and veterans, as well as their families; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature officially welcomes home
9 the members of the United States Armed Forces who served our
10 nation with honor, bravery, and distinction; pays tribute to the
11 members of the United States Armed Forces who served in support
12 of operations in Iraq; calls on the people of the State of California
13 to reflect on the service of those members of the United States
14 Armed Forces, veterans, and their families, and honor their
15 sacrifices; and commemorates and honors the contribution, service,
16 and sacrifice made by members of the United States Armed Forces
17 and their families, as the official combat mission in Iraq draws to
18 a close by erecting a memorial in the State Capitol Park; and be it
19 further

20 *Resolved*, That mayors and communities across the State of
21 California are encouraged to honor veterans who served in Iraq
22 and Afghanistan on November 11, 2012, in Veterans Day parades,
23 ceremonies, and other displays of our state's gratitude for their
24 service and sacrifice; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Department of General Services is requested
26 to work with appropriate third parties to design and create a
27 memorial honoring the California veterans who fought and served
28 in Iraq and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources
29 covering the cost, erect that memorial, in accordance with
30 California law, in the State Capitol Park; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to enact future legislation
32 authorizing the creation of a larger memorial commemorating and
33 thanking those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan; and be it
34 further

35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the Director of General Services and to the author
37 for appropriate distribution.

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